

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-27 have been amended herein to clarify their respective references to their respective parent claims. These amendments do not narrow the claims. No new matter is added by these amendments, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Remarks

In the Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. § 371 mailed on April 10, 2008 (the "Notification"), the Office contended that the claims filed with applicants' September 22, 2006 Preliminary Amendment included twenty-five (25) independent claims. As a result, the Notification charged applicants with a \$2310 fee for the alleged excess independent claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with this contention, and submit that claim 1 is the only independent claim.

Nonetheless, applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5 and 7-27 to clarify their respective references to their respective parent claims, thereby making clear that claim 1 is the only pending independent claim.

In view of these clarifying amendments, applicants submit that the \$2310 additional claim fee in the Notification is no longer applicable. Accordingly, in the Response to the Notification filed concurrently herewith, applicants have paid only the \$65 surcharge fee. However, as indicated in the Response, the Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 (Order No. 001581-0291).

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2nd Preliminary Amendment

Conclusion

Applicants request entry of these amendments and consideration of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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